

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

The close timing of this clear attempt to provide support to the Bush-Cheney campaign so close to the election demands immediate and swift action by your Commission, to prevent unjust skewering of yet another presidential election. I demand that your agency threaten the Sinclair stations with immediate license suspension unless they commit to either not showing the pro-Bush material, or commit to showing equal material, in the same time/day slot, from all of the other political entities that are running candidates for office or President of the United States.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.